

Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council
Board of Directors Meeting

26 Aug 2009
Lowell, OR
6 PM

Present: Don Hampton, Barbara Hazen, Chuck Davis, Chuck Spies, Eve Montanaro, Gregg Vollstedt, Sean Stewart, Nancy Sawtelle, Wade Sims, Stephanie Schroeder, Debbi Dalrymple

I. Welcome and Review Agenda – Mr Davis

Agenda approved as written by consensus.

II. Approval of the Minutes of the Jun 17 BOD Meeting – Mr Davis

The minutes of the Jun 17, 2009 meeting were approved as written by consensus.

III. Board Member Announcements – BOD Members

- Mr Hampton said that the Hamptons had starred in the United Way footage again. The Oakridge Keg and Cask Festival is this weekend. There will be a concert in the park going on at the same time. Oakridge's wastewater was tested for residual drugs. It was found to have low concentrations of cocaine and methamphetamines but medium levels of ecstasy.
- Mr Sims said that the Forest Service is building 2 bunkhouses near Oakridge with stimulus funds. The final pavement is going over the Buck Creek culvert. Indigo Creek restoration is going full bore.
- Ms Sawtelle said that the BLM is working on an aquatic restoration EA for the district. WOPR has been remanded. They are in their new offices located in Springfield.
- Mr Stewart said that they are working on removing the Canada Thistle from the Lost Creek Confluence Project this week. They are watering there every two weeks. The irrigation system is maxed out with all this hot weather. The Park Service got a 2 person pontoon boat so that they can check on their properties that they can only reach by water.
- Mr Davis said that the Springfield Mill Race project is starting. Stimulus funds came thru for Phase 2. There may be opportunities for the watershed council to participate. Water will be diverted thru the well fields during the project. They are working on budgeting for False brome removal projects. The Willamalane path is getting started. It will go from Clear Lake Park to the well fields, connecting Howard Buford Park to Clear Water Park.
- Mr Spies said that the City of Lowell is teaming with the Army Corps to enhance a wetland near Orchard Park. Stormwater will get treated by going thru the wetland. They have got blue-green algae issues again in Dexter Lake. The drinking water tested negative for toxins though. There are blooms in Hills Creek Reservoir, a wilderness lake in the upper watershed and Dorena Reservoir.
- Mr Vollstedt said that his nursery uses a lot of water in the summer. They are creating ponds to capture rain water and to recycle water thereby avoiding taking water out of the creek during the day.

IV. Executive Director's Update – Ms Montanaro

- Ms Montanaro said that she had given several key presentations recently to the Meyer Memorial Trust, OWEB, Bonneville Education Foundation and the County Commissioners.
- Ms Montanaro started the discussion with the Commissioner to protect our drinking water at the last Lane Council presentation to the Commissioners. SUB, EWEB and DEQ are partnering in an effort to look at water quality in Lane County and at county ordinances.

Board members present shared that Ms Montanaro received kudos from all present at the meeting for her presentation. Some of the drivers for ordinances are FEMA insurance costs and incentives. There will be a big educational component to this project. Watershed councils will have a role in the solution. Several counties have riparian ordinances which are good examples to start with, so we do not have to reinvent the wheel. It'll be important to bring in the diverse stakeholders in the beginning. Watershed councils will not be recommending policy, but presenting data on the threats to our drinking water and public health.

- Five final reports for grants went in this month. Three are due in September. Some of our reports are posted on the OWEB website as examples of good reports. They should also be on our website.
- A lot of time was spent on the Model Watershed Program. Ms. Montanaro will direct the Program with assistance from Ms. Czarnomski. Ms. Montanaro will have staff attend to the various components of the Program based on staff expertise and experience.
- Lost Creek Riparian project - East Lane Soil and Water Conservation district got funding to replant after invasive species removal but hadn't gotten the replanting going due to a lot of staff turnover. Ms. Montanaro met with Mr. Downing and established an MOU to have the MFWWC conduct the restoration work with 8-20 landowners who will get their property replanted.
- Lost Creek Confluence Project – The irrigation system has been a challenge. Some lines were cut; some weren't irrigating. Elk are browsing but aren't causing too much damage. We did have to bring in a water truck but we have funding to address these issues.
- It is very difficult to get funding for education. Last year we got an award for \$28K, this year for \$15K. Ms Montanaro found monies to fund this year at \$26K from a NFF grant, BLM, SUB, the Forest Service and the Oregon Community Foundation.
- MIG contract – they started the Action Plan work and we will not have them finish the contract. We received an invoice from them requesting money for work not accomplished. The Contract Committee will meet and review the letter. They will point out to MIG that they had a performance contract and did not perform. Ms Montanaro had contact with the contracts lawyer at Guistina who said we were in good shape as far as terminating the contract goes based on what Ms Montanaro had already done.

V. Amendment to Annual Budget – Ms Montanaro, Ms Schroeder

Since January Ms Montanaro has procured \$671K in grants. She proposes additional funding for staff which would bring them up to the medium level of reimbursement category. Contract services in the budget refers to a monitoring specialist in addition to the Restoration Program Manager's salary.

MOTION: Motion to approve Budget Amendment #2. Discussed Executive Committee recommendation to change the Executive Director's and Restoration Program Manager's salary. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. How Can You Build a Stronger Organization? – Ms Schroeder

Ms Schroeder, Mr Wilder and Ms Montanaro met to discuss fund raising. They are asking the BOD for the names of contacts for a potential office warming/fund raising party. It is time to start building the membership and funds. The party that is planned would also recognize the hard working staff. Each member of the BOD will be asked to do a task. Ms Schroeder for example will ask for food donations and shop for the food. Mr Hampton will donate some wine. We are trying to establish a reserve fund and fund things like education which are rarely funded by OWEB. It also seems like a good idea to secure monies in case OWEB does not continue to receive lottery funds from the State. Ms Schroeder will generate lists for signing up on Doodle.

VII. Employee Policies - Ms Montanaro

Ms Montanaro stated that they had identified some discrepancies and some things that needed adding such as the Whistle Blower policy. This discussion was tabled for the next meeting in view of the late hour.

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VIII. Next BOD Meeting

30 September 2009

Lowell, OR

6-8 PM

Meeting adjourned 8:10 PM.

Barbara Hazen
Secretary